

SENATE BILL No. 217

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 12-20.

Synopsis: Township assistance payment of electric bills. Allows a township trustee to make an advance deposit of township assistance funds in the township's trustee's account with an electric service provider to pay for a township assistance recipient's electric usage charges as those charges are incurred.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Hershman

January 6, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 217

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning human services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 12-20-16-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 3.5. (a) This section applies only**
4 **to a township assistance recipient who has prepaid service.**
5 **(b) As used in this section, "prepaid service" refers to a**
6 **payment option offered by an electric service provider in which**
7 **payments for electric usage are charged against a prepaid credit**
8 **balance in a service account as electric service is rendered.**
9 **(c) As used in this section, "recipient" means a township**
10 **assistance recipient.**
11 **(d) As used in this section, "service account" means a township**
12 **trustee's account with an electric service provider.**
13 **(e) Notwithstanding IC 12-20-20-1 or any other law, if the**
14 **requirements of this section are met:**
15 **(1) a township trustee may deposit township assistance funds**
16 **into a service account to create a credit balance; and**
17 **(2) an electric service provider may electronically transfer**



1 funds from the credit balance in the service account under
2 subdivision (1);
3 to pay a recipient's electric usage charges, as those electric usage
4 charges are incurred.

5 (f) The electric service provider shall provide the township
6 trustee with a certified statement of all payments for a recipient's
7 electric usage that were charged against the service account during
8 the calendar month and any credit balance remaining in the service
9 account on the earlier of the following dates:

10 (1) Not later than ten (10) business days after the date the
11 balance in the service account is zero (0).

12 (2) Not later than forty-five (45) days after the last day of the
13 calendar month.

14 (g) The township trustee, as administrator of township
15 assistance, shall audit and certify the correctness of the amount
16 paid for the prepaid service.

17 (h) A service account must be in the name of the township
18 trustee's office and the trustee must control the disbursement of
19 funds from the service account. The funds deposited into a service
20 account may be used only to pay for a recipient's electric usage and
21 may not be used to pay administrative charges, equipment,
22 maintenance, repair, disconnection fees, delinquent bills, or any
23 other charge.

24 (i) If the electric service provider refunds charges paid from the
25 service account, or repays any remaining credit balance in the
26 service account, the refund or repayment shall be paid directly to
27 the township trustee.

28 (j) During any calendar month, the township trustee may
29 deposit township assistance funds in the service account only to the
30 extent that the credit balance in the service account does not exceed
31 the charges incurred by the recipient during the immediately
32 preceding calendar month.

33 SECTION 2. IC 12-20-20-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.73-2005,
34 SECTION 91, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
35 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 1. (a) If a township trustee, as administrator of
36 township assistance, grants township assistance to an indigent
37 individual or to any other person or agency on a township assistance
38 order as provided by law or obligates the township for an item properly
39 payable from township assistance money, the claim against the
40 township must be:

41 (1) itemized and sworn to as provided by law;

42 (2) accompanied by the original township assistance order, which



1 must be itemized and signed; and

2 (3) checked with the records of the township trustee, as
3 administrator of township assistance, and audited and certified by
4 the township trustee.

5 (b) The township trustee shall pay claims against the township for
6 township assistance in the same manner that other claims against the
7 township are paid. The township trustee, when authorized to pay claims
8 directly to vendors, shall pay a claim within forty-five (45) days. The
9 township trustee shall pay the claim from:

10 (1) any balance standing to the credit of the township against
11 which the claim is filed; or

12 (2) from any other available fund from which advancements can
13 be made to the township for that purpose.

14 **(c) A township assistance claim for prepaid electric service shall**
15 **be paid in accordance with IC 12-20-16-3.5.**

